

Message Text

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ACTION MBFR-03

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INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

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USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

USCINCEUR

USDEL SALT TWO II

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: MBFR: AD HOC GROUP MEETING MARCH 9: HIGHLIGHTS

GENEVA FOR DISTO

FROM US REP MBFR

1. AD HOC GROUP MEETING MARCH 9 FOCUSED ON GENERAL DISCUSSION OF US DRAFT PAPER ON SUBJECT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE FOR MIT (PAPER DEVELOPED BY MBFR COORDINATING COMMITTEE IN WASHINGTON). DISCUSSION REFLECTED ALLIED APPREHENSIONS OVER DIFFICULTIES THAT AGREED FORMULATIONS, SUCH AS MBFR, MAY ENCOUNTER IN DISCUSSION WITH THE EAST.

2. GROUP DISCUSSED AGREED DESCRIPTION FOR TALKS. US DRAFT, IN ELABORATING ALTERNATIVES BY WHICH ALLIES WOULD SEEK TO KEEP WORD " BALANCED" IN AN AGREED
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DESCRIPTION, PROPOSED DEFINING THIS WORD IN A NEUTRAL FASHION AS MEANING CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY. UK REP QUESTIONED WHETHER SEEKING SUCH NEUTRAL DEFINITION FOR "BALANCED" WOULD BE WISE, NOTING THAT A POSSIBLE ALLIED NEGOTIATING PROPOSAL OF AN ASSYMETRICAL NATURE MIGHT NOT, IN FACT, BE IN KEEPING WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR THE EAST. US REP NOTED THAT A NEUTRAL DEFINITION OF "BALANCED" WOULD BE NECESSARY TO GAIN ITS ACCEPTANCE IN ANY JOINT FORMULATION, AND THAT CHOICE LAY BETWEEN THIS APPROACH AND RESTRICTING USE OF THE TERM TO DEFINING CERTAIN TYPES OF WESTERN REDUCTION PROPOSALS. UK AND OTHER REPS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POSSIBILITY OF ADOPTING A DIFFERENT TITLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS THAN MBFR, PARTICULARLY IF ALTERNATIVE FORMULATIONS WERE TO FOCUS ON USE OF THE TERM "REDUCTIONS" WITHOUT USE OF TERM "BALANCED" WITH ITS CONNOTATION OF CONSTRAINTS, ESPECIALLY FOR UK AND FRG. SEVERAL REPS REMARKED THAT IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO ABANDON THE EFFORT TO ACHIEVE A SINGLE AGREED DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE NEGOTIATIONS OR, PERHAPS, AS SUGGESTED ELSEWHERE IN US DRAFT, FOCUS ATTENTION IN COMMUNIQUE ON AGENDA ITEM AGREEMENTS. US REP AGREED THIS WAS, OF COURSE, A POSSIBILITY, BUT NOTED THAT THERE MIGHT WELL BE PROBLEMS IN GAINING SUFFICIENT AGREEMENT ON AGENDA FORMULATIONS TO MAKE THEM A CENTERPIECE FOR THE COMMUNIQUE.

3. QUESTION OF GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS OF MBFR AS REFLECTED IN POSSIBLE COMMUNIQUE FORMULATIONS WAS ALSO DISCUSSED. US DRAFT SUGGESTS THAT, IF THE EAST WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO AGREE TO "CENTRAL EUROPE", ALLIES MIGHT CONSIDER ADOPTION OF FORMULA SUCH AS "FIRST OF ALL IN CENTRAL EUROPE". SOUTHERN FLANK STATES EXPRESSED CONCERN ON THIS SCORE. US REP NOTED THAT "FIRST OF ALL IN CENTRAL EUROPE" WAS PART OF US- USSR COMMUNIQUE OF MAY 29. GROUP AGREED TO RETURN TO THESE QUESTIONS IN MORE DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF PAPER IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. HUMES

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